

## THE OCCURRENCE OF A TROGLOPHILIC GROUND BEETLE IN FLORIDA (COLEOPTERA: CARABIDAE)

PAUL M. CHOATE AND THOMAS ROGERS

Dept. of Entomology, University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32601

### ABSTRACT

*Platynus (Rhadine) jonesi* (Barr) is recorded from Florida for the first time. Also included is a list of other Carabidae collected at the same locality.

Barr (1960, 1974) revised members of subterranean ground beetles of the genus *Rhadine* LeConte. Whitehead (1973) treated *Rhadine* as a subgenus of *Platynus* Bonelli. We follow the classification of Whitehead here.

A collecting trip to northern Florida was undertaken by the authors on 25-VI-1976. Many species of Coleoptera were collected during this trip; most unexpected, however, was the capture of a single female *Platynus jonesi* (Barr) by Tom Rogers.

We arrived at the Apalachicola River west of Bristol, Florida at approximately 2:30 a.m. Access to the river was by means of a side road leading south from the Calhoun Bridge on the Bristol side of the river. Several roadside pulloffs were found and collecting was done 0.7 miles from the main road (FL Rt. 20). The heavily eroded river banks were composed of clay and sand. Extensive root systems often reached the water's edge, making walking along the shoreline difficult. Beetles were collected by headlamp.

The specimen of *P. jonesi* was near the water's edge and ran rapidly as soon as the light from the headlamp struck the shoreline. Further searching along the river banks failed to yield more specimens of *Platynus jonesi*. Although the beetle was collected some 15 feet from the steep clay banks, it is quite likely that the true habitat is to be found in the extensive crevices in the clay banks. Other species of Carabidae collected at the same time were: *Omophron labiatum* F., *O. americanum* Dej., *Aspidoglossa subangulata* (Chaud.), *Ardistomis puncticollis* (Dej.), *Tetragonoderus fasciatus* Hald., *Chlaenius aestivus* Say, and *C. erythropus* Germ.

*P. jonesi* was described from Turk's Cave, near Brooklyn, Alabama. This site is approximately 75 miles northwest of the collection site in Florida, suggesting that this species should be looked for along the larger river systems of Florida.

### LITERATURE CITED

- BARR, THOMAS C. JR., 1960. The cavernicolous beetles of the subgenus *Rhadine*, genus *Agonum* (Coleoptera: Carabidae). Amer. Midland Nat. 64:45-65.  
 BARR, THOMAS C. JR. 1974. Revision of *Rhadine* LeConte (Coleoptera, Carabidae) I. The *subterranea* group. Amer. Mus. Novitates 2539:1-30.  
 WHITEHEAD, DONALD R. 1973. Annotated key to *Platynus*, including *Mexisphodrus* and most "*Colpodes*", so far described from North America including Mexico. (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Agonini). Quaest. Ent. 9:173-217.



### CORRECTION

Due to a purely editorial blunder, the heading at the top of page 294 in the September issue was printed with an incorrect spelling. This heading should read "*Calosoma cicatricosum balli* Rotger, **new subspecies**". I guarantee this type of error will not occur again. Meanwhile, I sincerely apologize to Padre Rotger.

—D. R. Whitehead